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Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 003277
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

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DRAFTED BY: S/S-O SVALERGA
APPROVED BY: S/S-O SVALERGA
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O 061416Z JAN 78 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 003277

NODIS
FOR BRZEZINSKI ONLY

FOL TEL SENT ACTION SECSTATE FROM TUNIS DTD 06 JAN 1978 QTE

S E C R E T TUNIS 0074

NODIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2 (IMP DET)
TAGS: PFOR TS
SUBJECT: LIBYAN EFFORTS TO SUBVERT PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA

REF: TUNIS 0073

1. AS A GAUGE OF THE SERIOUSNESS ADTTMNCERITY OF HABIB BOURGUIBA, JR.'S RECITAL REPORTED AT LENGTH IN REFTEL OF THE FACTS OF A "PLOT" LEADING TO TUNISIA'S RECENT CABINET CRISIS, HE EVEN DISCUSSED EXTREMELY DELICATE FAMILY MATTERS WITH ME. THAT PART OF HIS ACCOUNT I HAVE DECIDED SHOULD BE CLASSIFIED NODIS AND MOST CLOSELY GUARDED.

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2. BOURGUIBA, JR. SAID THAT THERE IS NOW INCONTROVERTIBLE DOCUMENTATION AVAILABLE WHICH PROVES THAT PRESIDENT QADHAFI ENGINEERED EFFORTS TO SUBVERT "THOSE IN THE PALACE CLOSEST TO PRESIDENT BOURGUBA". NEVER ONCE REFERRING TO HIS STEP-MOTHER, WASSILA, EXCEPT AS "SHE", HE EXPLAINED THAT SHE HAD HELPED IN THE MACHINATIONS OF QADHAFI, MASMOUDI, BELKHODJA AND ACHOUR TO DESTABILIZE AND

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EVENTUALLY TO BRING DOWN THE NOUIRA GOVERNMENT. WITHOUT
GOING INTO DETAIL, HE SAID THAT THE EVIDENCE AGAINST HER
IS QUITE CONCLUSIVE. THE EVIDENCE, HOWEVER, WILL NOT
BE SET BEFORE PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA "BECAUSE IT WOULD
KILL HIM". HER ROLE IN IT WILL BE PROTECTED, HE SAID.

3. THE PRESIDENT'S SON AND NOW "SPECIAL ADVISOR" TO
HIS FATHER WENT ON TO EXPLAIN THAT HIS FATHER HAS "AN
OEDIPUS COMPLEX" IN WHICH WASSILA BOURGUIBA HAS AN IMPORTANT
PART TO PLAY. HE SAID HE HIMSELF (BOURGUIBA, JR.) HAD
BEEN UNAWARE HOW STRONG THIS COMPLEX WAS UNTIL HE VISITED
HIS FATHER IN GENEVA DURING ONE OF HIS RECENT ILLNESSES.
THE PRESIDENT, UNDER HEAVY SEDATION, WAS LOOKING AT A
PICTURE OF HIS MOTHER TO WHOSE MEMORY HE IS STILL STRONGLY
ATTACHED AND OVER AND OVER COMPARED HIS MOTHER'S CHUNKY,
BUXOM FIGURE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS WITH THOSE OF
WASSILA, HIS LONG-TIME MISTRESS AND EVENTUAL SECOND WIFE.
THUS, SAID THE SON, "AS LONG AS THE OLD MAN LIVES HE WILL
NOT BE TOLD OF HER PART IN ALL THIS". HE CONCLUDED BY SAYING
THAT "SHE IS OUT OF SUCH THINGS NOW". HE SAID HE DID
NOT MIND IF THIS INFORMATION WAS PASSED TO WASHINGTON IF
I COULD PROMISE THAT ONLY THE MOST SENIOR OFFICIALS CON-
CERNED WITH TUNISIA HAD ACCESS TO IT. I GAVE HIM MY
GUARANTEE.

4. A FURTHER PERTINENT NOTEOF A PERSONAL NATURE
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CONCERNING PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA: AT THE PRIME MINISTER'S
DINNER FOR CODEL ZABLOCKI, BOURGUIBA, JR. WAS SEATED
NEXT TO MY WYFE AND TOLD HER THAT ONE OF HIS CHIEF
REASONS FOR ACCEPTING THE PRIME MINISTER'S REQUEST
THAT HE RETURN TO PUBLIC LIFE WAS THE RECENT DISCOVERY
THAT HIS FATHER HAS NOW BEEN AFFLICTED WITH A SERIOUS
KIDNEY AILMENT IN ADDITION TO THE NUMEROUS OTHER PHYSICAL
COMPLAINTS WHICH ARE ALREADY A MATER OF RECORD.

5. SECRET -- WARNING NOTE -- SENSITIVE INTELLIGENCE
SOURCES AND METHODS INVOLVED -- NOT RELEASABLE TO FOREIGN
NATIONALS -- NOT RELEASABLE TO CONTRACTORS OR CONTRACTOR/
CONSULTANTS -- DISSEMINATION AND EXTRACTION OF INFORMATION
CONTROLLED BY ORIGINATOR. MULCAHY UNQTE CHRISTOPHER

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